

Estimated at \$102.5 Million

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## FBI Building, Under Construction, Will Be Most Costly U.S. Structure

By Jean R. Hailey  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The estimated cost of the new FBI headquarters, now under construction in Washington, has climbed from \$60 million to \$102.5 million over an eight-year span.

The new figure, sought in the fiscal 1971 budget of the General Services Administration, overseer of Federal construction, would make the FBI structure the most expensive, at this point, of all U.S. government buildings.

It will surpass the Rayburn House Office Building, which cost close to \$100 million when it was completed about four years ago.

The original estimate for the FBI headquarters was made in 1962 but its price started climbing before the first contract for its 3-story substructure was awarded in November 1967.

Two floors are nearly completed. The contract for the third substructure floor is expected to be let next March. The substructure involves a vast block-square hole on Pennsylvania Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets NW.

Construction of the above-ground building, eight stories high on the front facing Pennsylvania Avenue across from the present FBI headquarters in the Justice Department,

and 11 stories high in the back, will follow, with completion of the entire structure scheduled for late 1973 or early 1974.

Appropriations of \$31,778,000 for design and construction actually have been approved by Congress and have been used promptly, keeping the work fairly well on schedule, a GSA spokesman said.

He said there is enough money to continue a steady work pace until action is taken on the present budget, which applies to independent offices and the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment. It is now before subcommittees on both sides of Congress.

He added that the increase in the estimated cost was brought on by increased costs in labor and materials.

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